

Permitting decisions- Surrender

We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for Potterhill Farm Poultry Unit operated by Mr Murray Laird and Mrs Pauline Laird.

The permit number is EPR/XP3737CZ.

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid any pollution risk and to return the site to a satisfactory state. We consider in reaching this decision that we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision-making process. It:

- highlights key issues in the determination
- summarises the decision-making process in the decisions considerations section to show how all relevant factors have been taken into account

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit

Key issues of the decision

This is a broiler farm which for many years has been operating under Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) for rearing of poultry intensively at an installation with more than 40,000 places.

The Operator has confirmed they will continue to operate with broiler numbers below this threshold and hence has applied for a full surrender. The farm will no longer need to be permitted under EPR but will continue as a small family farm operating with broiler numbers under the relevant threshold. The farm will continue to rear organic poultry in mobile huts, but the stocking density in each hut will be reduced so as the number of birds on site will not exceed 40,000 at any one time.

The site inspector has confirmed that the site is well run with no issues and that the measures in place for reducing broiler places below EPR thresholds are sufficient.

Decision considerations

Confidential information

A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

Identifying confidential information

We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

Pollution risk

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid a pollution risk resulting from the operation of the regulated facility.

Satisfactory state

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to return the site of the regulated facility to a satisfactory state, having regard to the state of the site before the facility was put into operation.

Growth duty

We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to accept this permit surrender.